

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim 104 is directed to an endovascular prosthesis. The endovascular prosthesis includes a trunk portion having an inner layer of fabric which at least partially defines a trunk lumen and an outer layer of fabric which at least partially defines an outer side of the trunk portion. A radially expandable support is at least partially exposed between the inner and outer layers of fabric.

A furcated portion is set forth in claim 104 as being connected to the trunk portion. The furcated portion includes a plurality of branches having branch lumens in fluid communication with the trunk lumen. The trunk lumen is formed by a number of sections equal to the number of branches in the furcated portion.

The sections of the trunk portion are set forth in claim 104 as being interconnected by a plurality of continuous seams which are free of corners along their length. The seams interconnect the inner and outer layers of fabric. A first end of each of the seams is disposed on a central axis of the trunk portion at an intersection of the furcated portion. A second end of each of the seam is disposed at a second end of the trunk portion. Each of the seams has an arcuately curving portion which extends from the first end of a seam into the trunk portion. In addition, each of the seams has a linear portion which extends from the arcuately curving portion to a second end of the seam.

A plurality of tubular outflow limbs are set forth in claim 104 as being telescopically connected with one of the branches. Each of the outflow limbs

extends from one of the branches and has a lumen in fluid communication with the trunk lumen. Each of the outflow limbs has an inner layer of fabric which at least partially defines the limb lumen. In addition, each of the outflow limbs has an outer layer of fabric which at least partially defines an outer side of the limb.

Claim 104 defines over the prior art and particularly the patents to White, et al. (6,099,558), Richter, et al. (6,090,133), Banas, et al. (6,004,348), and/or Pinheiro (5,851,228), by setting forth the construction of the trunk portion of the prosthesis. The trunk portion is set forth as including a plurality of continuous seams which are free of corners along their lengths. In the patent to Richter, et al., the seams are not free of corners along their length. In addition, claim 104 defines over the prior art by setting forth a first end of each of the seams as being disposed on a central axis of the trunk portion at an intersection of the furcated portion. There is nothing in the patent to Richter, et al. which even remotely suggests having an end of the seams disposed on a central axis of the trunk portion. In addition, claim 104 defines over the prior art by setting forth each of the seams as having (1) an arcuately curving portion and (2) a linear portion which extends from the arcuately curving portion of the seam to the second end of the seam.

Claims 105 through 114 depend from claim 104 and define over the prior art for substantially the same reasons as claim 104 and by virtue of the structure and function set forth in these claims taken in combination with the structure and function of claim 104. Specifically, claim 105 sets forth each of the branches as including a singular linear rod which is disposed between inner and outer layers of

fabric which at least partially define the one branch. The linear rod is spaced from all other members disposed between the inner and outer layers of fabric which at least partially define the one branch.

Claim 106 depends from claim 104 and sets forth the inner and outer layers of fabric which at least partially define the trunk portion as having a uniaxially oriented fibril microstructures.

Claim 107 depends from claim 106 and sets forth the inner and outer layers of fabric which define the trunk portion as having a thickness of about 0.1 mm.

Claim 108 depends from claim 107 and sets forth the inner and outer layers of fabric which at least partially define the trunk portion as being interconnected by sintering to form a substantially monolithic covering for at least a portion of the radially expandable support.

Claim 109 depends from claim 104 and sets forth a stent as extending from a first end of the trunk portion. The stent has surfaces which engage an inner side surface of a first blood vessel at a location in an upstream blood flow direction of a junction between the first blood vessel and a second blood vessel. The stent extends downstream passed the junction between the first and second blood vessels. The trunk portion is disposed in a downstream blood flow direction of the junction between the first and second blood vessels.

In the last office action, the Examiner questioned the basis in the original disclosure for the limitation that the stent extends downstream passed a junction between the first and second blood vessels. In Figs. 21C and 21D of the application drawings, the bare stent 200 extends downstream passed the junction

between the renal artery (RA) and the aorta (A). This is described at pages 54 through 55 of the specification. Therefore, it is believed that there is a basis for this terminology in claim 109.

Claim 110 depends from claim 104 and sets forth a plurality of sutures as being connected with the branches. Each of the sutures is connected with an end of one of the branches and extends from the end portion of the one of the branches in a direction away from the trunk portion to a location spaced from the branches.

Claim 111 depends from claim 104 and sets forth the radially expandable support as being spaced apart from the furcated portion.

Claim 112 depends from claim 104 and sets forth each of the branches as including a rod which extends from a location adjacent to the intersection of the furcated portion to a location adjacent an end of the branch. The rod is disposed between the inner and outer layers of fabric.

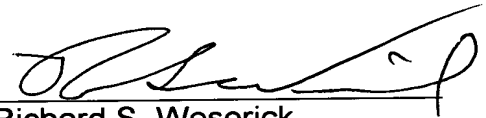
Claim 113 depends from claim 104 and sets forth the inner and outer layers of fabric as being bonded together.

Claim 114 depends from claim 104 and sets forth the inner layer of fabric as being coextensive with the outer layer of fabric.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application clearly and patentably define over the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and this application passed to issue. If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the

Examiner call applicant's attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio at 621-2234, area code 216. Please charge any deficiency in the fees for this application to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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